



Brownfields 2009 Grant Fact Sheet

Milwaukee Community Service Corps, WI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC) was selected to receive a job training grant. The MCSC is targeting a six-census-tract area in the central city areas of Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha (combined population 487,000). Nearly all of the tracts



Job Training Grant

\$200,000

EPA has selected the Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC) for a job training grant. MCSC plans to train 64 students, graduate 56 trainees, and place all graduates into guaranteed part-time field technician positions. MCSC projects that 50 percent of the graduates will transition from these positions to full-time employment in the environmental sector. MCSC's tracking will continue as long as MCSC is in operation. The 300-hour training program will consist of eight 12-week training cycles followed by a four-to-eight-week internship. Courses will include OSHA health and safety training, lead and asbestos abatement and certification, confined space entry and certification, sampling and monitoring applications, and innovative technologies education. Licensed in-house staff and contractors will provide the training. MCSC has long-standing relationships with unions, government agencies, and private companies with whom they will work to place graduates in environmental jobs.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

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<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Milwaukee Community Service Corps, WI
414-372-9040

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

are located in a federally designated Renewal Community. Area residents are predominantly African-American, and the poverty rate, at nearly 54 percent, is more than four times the national average. Since the late 1990s, metropolitan Milwaukee's job market has deteriorated much more rapidly than those of comparable cities. Numerous vacant and underutilized properties line major commercial and industrial corridors. At the same time, recent sales data indicate that in metropolitan Milwaukee alone, annual receipts among environmental consulting and remediation firms totaled \$47 million. This figure is expected to increase by nearly 50 percent as brownfields redevelopment projects get underway. Individuals trained as environmental technicians will be in demand for work on current and planned brownfields redevelopment projects.